



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

JUN 21 2018

CERTIFIED MAIL 70171450000079130186

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. John Harper
Wiregrass Construction, Inc.
170 East Main Street
Dothan, Alabama 36301

RE: Notice of Violation and Information Request Letter 308-018-011

Dear Mr. Harper:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 has learned that Wiregrass Construction Company, Inc., ("Wiregrass") ("Respondent") controls property on which sand and gravel mining has been conducted without U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("Corps") Clean Water Act ("CWA") Section 404 permits, 33 U.S.C. § 1344. The approximately 700-acre tract, known as the Poly Pit, is located east and west of Cubahatchee Creek, a perennial tributary of the Tallapoosa River, which is a Rivers and Harbors Act section 10, traditional navigable water of the United States, 33 U.S.C. § 403. The Poly Pit is approximately three miles northwest of Shorter in Macon County, Alabama, near 32°24'9" north and 85°55'9" west ("Site") (See Exhibits A and B).

The EPA and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management conducted a site inspection of your facility on March 28, 2018. Based on information developed during the inspection, as well as a discussion with the Corps, the EPA has reason to believe that Respondent has been discharging dredged and/or fill material into jurisdictional waters of the United States while conducting sand and gravel mining operations and related activities without required CWA Section 404 permits, 33 U.S.C. § 1344. Such unpermitted discharges are not in compliance with CWA Section 301, 33 U.S.C. § 1311. The purpose of this letter is to provide Respondent with notice that the activities on the Site are violations of the CWA and to request relevant information from you pursuant to Section 308 of the CWA.

Based on the EPA's review of the information noted above, Respondent's sand and gravel mining and related activities have resulted in discharges into jurisdictional waters of the United States. Those activities conducted in jurisdictional waters of the United States include, but are not limited to, extensive mechanical land-clearing, ditching and side-casting, construction of earthen berms and haul roads, stream re-routing, stock-piling dredged and/or fill material, and using streambeds and jurisdictional wetlands as settling ponds. Respondent's unauthorized work has resulted in impacts to multiple areas of Cubahatchee Creek, tributaries to Cubahatchee Creek and many wetland acres adjacent to Cubahatchee Creek, a perennial tributary to the Tallapoosa River. The placement of dredged and/or fill material into any waterways, their adjacent wetlands, and/or other jurisdictional waters of the United States requires authorization from the Corps. As stated above, Respondent did not receive such authorization prior to discharging into jurisdictional waters of the United States at the Site.

To further the EPA's investigation of Wiregrass's compliance with the CWA, and pursuant to Section 308 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1318, the EPA hereby requests that Wiregrass provide the information set forth in Enclosure A within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter. Your response should be sent to:

Mr. Mike Wylie
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
Atlanta Federal Center
Marine Regulatory and Wetlands Enforcement Section
61 Forsyth Street S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

All information submitted must be accompanied by the following certification signed by a duly authorized company official in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 122.22:

"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

Failure to provide a full and complete response to this information request or to adequately justify a failure to respond within the time frame specified above may result in an EPA enforcement action pursuant to federal law, including, but not limited to 33 U.S.C. § 1319 and 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

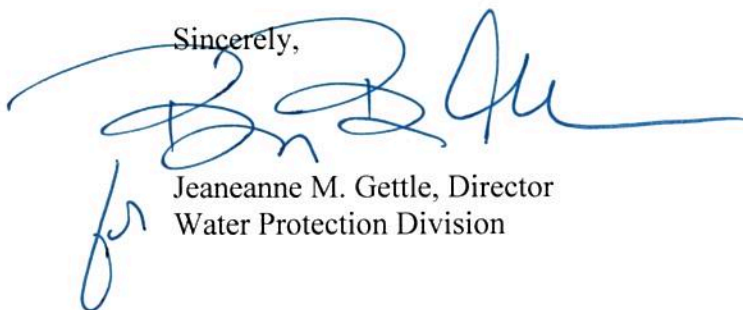
If Wiregrass believes that any of the requested information is Confidential Business Information (CBI), it may assert a business confidentiality claim with respect to such information in the manner described by 40 C.F.R. § 2.203(b). Information covered by such a claim will be disclosed by the EPA only to the extent, and by means of the procedures, set forth in Subpart B, Part 2, 40 C.F.R. § 2.201 *et seq.* Please separate documents that you wish to protect as CBI from non-confidential documents. Sending documents claimed as CBI electronically to the EPA is done at the risk of the claimant, as the EPA does not have the capability to encrypt electronic information. The EPA requests that any such information be physically mailed to the address provided. If Wiregrass does not assert a CBI claim, the EPA may make information submitted under this request available to the public without further notice to Wiregrass. Additional information regarding the EPA's requirements for confidential treatment of information can be found in Subpart B, Part 2, 40 C.F.R. § 2.201 *et seq.*

The Securities and Exchange Commission requires its registrants to periodically disclose environmental legal proceedings in statements filed with the Commission. To assist you, the EPA has enclosed a document entitled "Notice of Securities and Exchange Commission Registrants Duty to Disclose Environmental Legal Proceedings."

We have also enclosed a document that provides information for small businesses that may be subject to an EPA enforcement action. This document is for your use and to assist you in understanding the compliance assistance resources and tools available to you. Any decision to seek compliance assistance at this time, however, does not relieve Wiregrass of its obligation to the EPA nor does it create any new rights or defenses and will not affect the EPA's decision to pursue enforcement action.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Mike Wylie at (404) 562-9409 or have your attorney contact Mr. Paul Schwartz at (404) 562-9576.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Gettle', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Jeaneanne M. Gettle, Director
Water Protection Division

Enclosures

cc: Mr. James Cherry, U. S. Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Ms. Catherine McNeill, Alabama Department of Environmental Management

Mr. Jeff Kitchens, Alabama Department of Environmental Management

Mr. Brian Wittwer, Alabama Department of Labor

EPA SECTION 308 INFORMATION REQUEST

Instructions

1. Please provide a separate narrative response to each and every Question and subpart of a Question set forth in this information request.
2. Precede each answer with the number of the Question to which it corresponds.
3. For each document produced in response to this Information Request, indicate on the document, or in some other reasonable manner, the number of the Question to which it responds.
4. You must provide the information requested even though you may contend that it includes confidential business information (CBI) such as trade secrets. You may, if you desire, assert a CBI claim covering part or all of the information requested, under 40 C.F.R. § 2.203(b), by attaching to such information at the time it is submitted, a cover sheet with the words "trade secret," "proprietary," or "company confidential" stamped or typed on it. Information covered by such claim will be disclosed by the EPA only to the extent, and only by means, of the procedures set forth in the regulation set forth above. **If you do not assert a confidentiality claim, when you submit your information to the EPA, the EPA may disclose the information to the public without further notice to you.** You should read the above cited regulations carefully before asserting a CBI claim, since certain categories of information are not properly the subject of such a claim.

Definitions

The following definitions shall apply to the following words as they appear in the Questions below:

5. All terms not defined herein shall have their ordinary meanings, unless such terms are defined in the Clean Water Act or its implementing regulations, in which case the statutory or regulatory definitions shall control.
6. Words in the masculine may be construed in the feminine if appropriate, and vice versa, and words in the singular may be construed in the plural if appropriate, and vice versa, in the context of a particular question or questions.
7. The terms "and" and "or" shall be construed either disjunctively or conjunctively as necessary to bring within the scope of this Information Request any information which might otherwise be construed outside its scope.
8. The term "identify" means, with respect to a natural person, to set forth the person's name, present or last known business address and business telephone number, present or last

known home address and home telephone number, and present or last known job title, position or business.

9. The term “identify” means, with respect to a document, to provide its customary business description; its date; its number, if any (invoice or purchase order number); the identity of the author, addressee and/or recipient; and substance of the subject matter.

10. The term “identify” means, with respect to a corporation, partnership, business trust or other association or business entity (including a sole proprietorship), to set forth its full name, address, legal form (e.g., corporation, partnership, etc.), organization, if any, and a brief description of its business.

11. The term “Discharge Area” means the wetlands and streams that have been impacted either through filling and excavating or mechanical land clearing with side cast of dredged and/or fill material. More specifically, the Discharge Area is within an approximately 700-acre tract, known as the Poly Pitt, located east and west of Cubahatchee Creek, a perennial tributary of the Tallapoosa River, a navigable in fact waterway. The sand and gravel mine is approximately 3 miles northwest of Shorter in Macon County, Alabama, near 32°24’9” north and 85°55’9” west. The Discharge Area is indicated on the enclosed Exhibits A and B.

12. The term “Site” means the parcel or parcels of land on which the Discharge Area is located and is better known as the approximately 700-acre Poly Pit, Macon County, Alabama.

13. The term “Work” means any land clearing activities, ditching, dredging, side casting, road or dike construction, stream crossing construction, mechanical land clearing, piping of streams, timber harvesting, excavating, mining or filling activities that have occurred in wetlands or streams at the Site since you owned, controlled, or did any Work on the Site.

14. The term “you” and/or “Respondent” shall mean Wiregrass Construction Company, Inc.

Questions

Please provide the EPA with the following information or documents pertaining to the Discharge Area identified in Exhibits A and B:

15. Copies of any deeds, leases, easements, mineral rights or other documents revealing the ownership interest or interests in the Site.

16. The name and address of any contractor, subcontractor, consultant, agent, or individual who directed or participated in the Work at the Site.

17. The types of equipment used to carry out the Work, and the names and addresses of the person and/or companies that own and/or operate the equipment.
18. The date upon which Work was commenced and the date upon which the Work was completed or will be completed.
19. A description of all Work at the Site performed by Respondent, or on behalf of the Respondent by its contractor(s), subcontractor(s), consultant(s), or agent(s).
20. A description of any Work performed at the Site by any entity other than the Respondent, its contractor(s), subcontractor(s), consultant(s), or agent(s).
21. A description of the entire scope of activities at the Site including any maps and engineering plans.
22. A description of the condition of the overall Site before Work commenced.
23. A description of the condition of the Discharge Area before Work commenced.
24. Copies of any on-site environmental assessments, including environmental assessments of soils, vegetation or hydrology at the Site.
25. Copies of any State or local permits including mining permits that may have been received for the Work on the Site.
26. Please provide all Federal permits you received to conduct Work at the Site. If you did not obtain Federal permits for Work at the Site, please explain why.
27. Plans for any additional filling, excavating, mining or other land disturbing activities at the Site.
28. A summary of any written or verbal communication with Federal, State or local agencies regarding the Work; copies of any written communication and copies of notes regarding any written or verbal communication with Federal, State, or local agencies regarding the Work.
29. The names and activities of all contractors or consultants or other entities that assisted with securing any local, state, or federal permits or easements associated with the Site.
30. Copies of any contracts covering Work at the Site.
31. Please provide annual production volumes in cubic yards since you have started Work at the Site.

32. Please identify the individual or individuals who prepared the responses to this Information Request.

At the end of your response to this information request, please include the following certification:

“I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.”

Name
Title

**Approximate Site
Location Containing
Discharge Area**



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

EXHIBIT A
Wiregrass Poly Pit
Macon County, AL

0 0.2 0.4 0.8
Miles



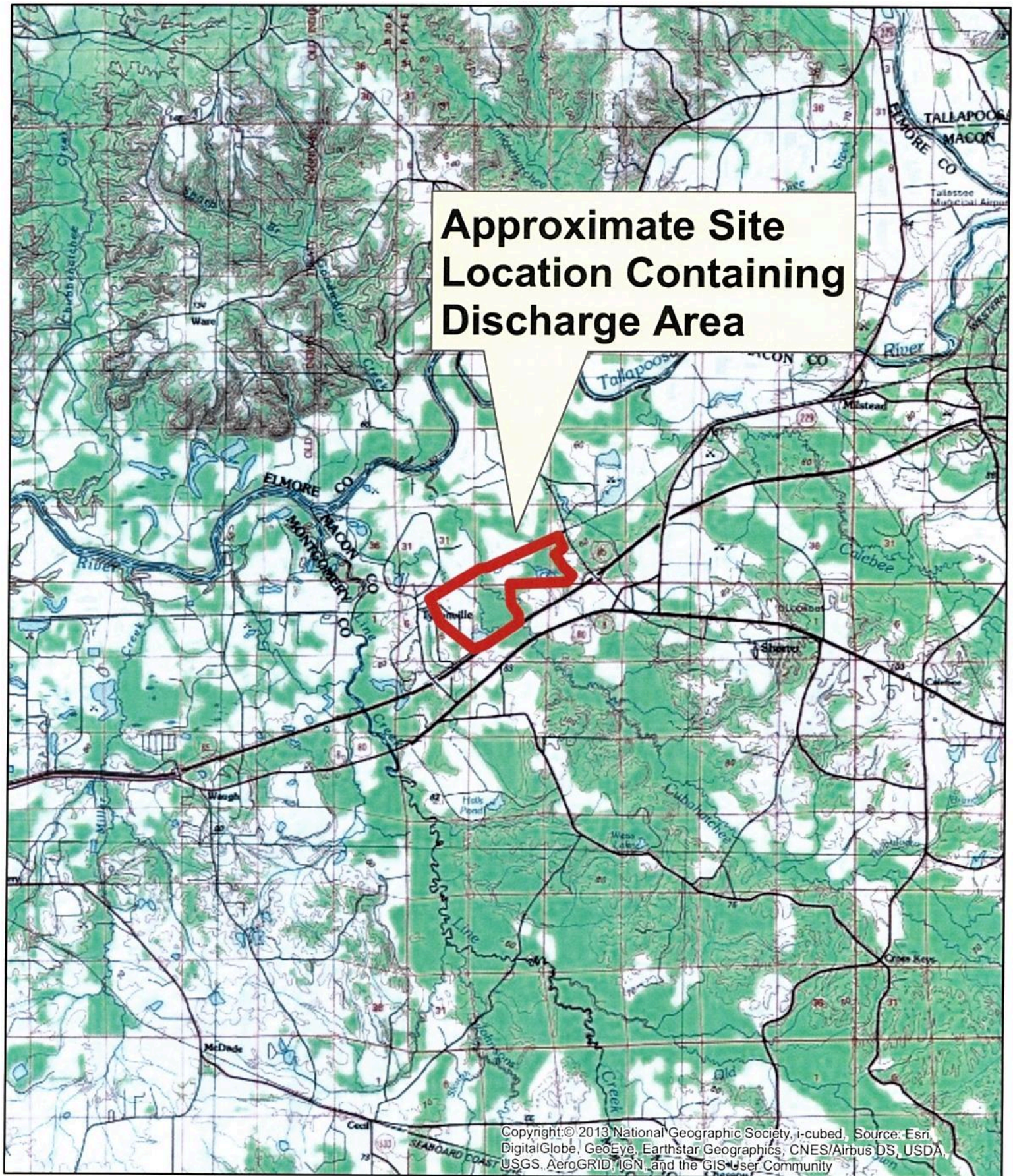


EXHIBIT B
Wiregrass Poly Pit
Macon County, AL

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



9810 3162 0000 0541 2102

U.S. Postal Service™
CERTIFIED MAIL® RECEIPT
Domestic Mail Only

For delivery information, visit our website at www.usps.com®.

OFFICIAL USE

Certified Mail Fee

\$

Extra Services & Fees (check box, add fee as appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|----|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt (hardcopy) | \$ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt (electronic) | \$ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Mail Restricted Delivery | \$ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Signature Required | \$ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Signature Restricted Delivery | \$ | |

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Here

JUN 21 2018

Postage

\$

Total Price

\$

Sent To

Street &

City, St.

Mr. John Harper
Wiregrass Construction, Inc.
170 East Main Street
Dothan, Alabama 36301

PS Form 3800, April 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9047

See Reverse for Instructions